

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080322

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PORG, UN, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEWS ON CHARTER REVISION AND UN BUDGET
GROWTH

1. SAYING THAT HE WAS ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW,
SOVIET MINISTER COUNSELOR VASEV CALLED ON ASSISTANT
SECRETARY MAYNES APRIL 7 TO EXPRESS SOVIET CONCERN ABOUT
(1) THE GA SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON UN CHARTER AND (2) THE
RATE OF GROWTH OF THE UN BUDGET. HE SAID ISSUES BEING
RAISED IN WASHINGTON TO INDICATE SERIOUSNESS OF SOVIET
CONCERN.

2. VASEV EXPRESSED STRONG SOVIET OPPOSITION TO MOVE FOR
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REVISION OF THE CHARTER BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE. BELIEVING REVISION WOULD WEAKEN AUTHORITY
AND EFFECTIVENESS OF UN, HE SAID SOVIET UNION HAS SERIOUS
DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
SHOULD CONTINUE. NOTING THAT US AND SOVIET VIEWS HAD
BEEN CLOSE IN THE COMMITTEE, HE SAID SOVIETS FAVOR AN
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE U.S. AND ASKED U.S. VIEWS

ON TIME AND PLACE FOR SPECIAL CONSULTATIONS. MAYNES PROMISED TO CONSIDER SOVIET SUGGESTION CAREFULLY AND ASKED WHICH PARTICULAR PROPOSALS BOTHER THE SOVIET UNION. VASEV MADE CLEAR THAT HE MEANT THE PROPOSAL

OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP (PRESUMABLY PROPOSALS INTRODUCED BY MEXICO AND ATTACHED TO SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT AS ANNEX OVER OPPOSITION OF US, UK, USSR, FRANCE, BELGIUM, AND THREE EAST EUROPEANS, SEE USUN 772). IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, VASEV CONFIRMED THAT SOVIETS ARE PROPOSING BILATERAL, NOT MULTILATERAL, CONSULTATIONS, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE OTHER PERMANENT SC MEMBERS WITH THE US AND NOT CONSIDERATIONS WITH ANY OF THE OTHER PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

3. VASEV THEN TURNED TO SECOND SUBJECT, EXPRESSING SOVIET CONCERN ABOUT EXTREMELY HIGH AND UNWARRANTED RATE OF GROWTH IN UN BUDGET IN RECENT YEARS AND IN DRAFT BUDGET FOR 1978-79. IF SOVIET CONCERN IS NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, VASEV SAID IT WOULD HAVE AN EFFECT ON WILLINGNESS OF MEMBER STATES TO PAY THEIR SHARES AND WOULD CALL INTO QUESTION THE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE UN. HE EXPRESSED THE SOVIET UNION'S HOPE FOR COORDINATED STEPS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SOVIET MISSIONS IN NEW YORK TO CORRECT THE 1978-79 UN BUDGET AND REQUESTED U.S. VIEWS ON OTHER STEPS WE CAN TAKE.

4. MAYNES POINTED OUT SOVIET UNION AND U.S. HAVE MANY COMMON VIEWS ON FINANCING ISSUE. HE ASKED, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHETHER VASEV'S STATEMENT ABOUT WILLINGNESS OF MEMBER STATES TO PAY THEIR SHARES CONTAINED A SUGGESTION THAT SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO PAY ITS SHARE IF BUDGET CONTINUED TO INCREASE. VASEV SAID THERE WAS NO SUCH SUGGESTION, BUT CONTINUED GROWTH WOULD MAKE PAYMENT DIFFICULT FOR SOME MEMBERS AND WOULD CALL INTO QUESTION THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ORGANIZATION.

5. MAYNES ASKED WHETHER SOVIET UNION IS WILLING TO DISCUSS THE OVERALL FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF PAST DEBTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF NON-CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANT PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS THE REGULAR BUDGET LEVEL. VASEV REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT ANY SUBJECT IS OPEN, BUT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONCENTRATING ON THE BUDGET LEVEL QUESTION, WHICH IS THE MAIN PROBLEM. MAYNES SAID THAT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ASSESSMENTS ARE A LIVE ISSUE.

6. MAYNES ASKED WHAT STEPS SOVIETS HAVE IN MIND OTHER THAN REPRESENTATIONS TO THE UN SECRETARIAT. VASEV EXPRESSED THE SOVIET UNION'S DESIRE TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE STEPS WITH THE U.S. WELL BEFORE THE NEXT UNGA MEETING.

TIMING AND PLACE WERE OPEN TO DISCUSSION. HE MENTIONED CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN BUFFUM AND ISRAELYAN IN MOSCOW TWO YEARS AGO, AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BAKER MENTIONED OUR WILLINGNESS TO HOST CONSULTATIONS LAST YEAR WHICH NEVER MATERIALIZED. MAYNES SAID U.S. WOULD BE WILLING TO OFFER CONSULTATIONS AGAIN THIS YEAR AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

7. COMMENT: OUR GENERAL INCLINATION IS TO ACCEPT CONSULTATIONS, PREFERABLY IN NEW YORK, ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS. WOULD WELCOME ADDRESSEES COMMENTS.

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